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Dave--

Here are some highlights of BBN history gleaned from annual reports. I saw no way of doing a single time line--too long to fit on a slide. We could divide slides up by decades, as I've done here, with a bulleted list for each--or maybe a little timeline for each? Obviously the '60s and '70s are out of balance with the other decades.

I'm drowning in BBN history (for example, do you know about the rise and fall of Wood Flong Corp.?) Please cut this. It's about 3 pages too long, I think.

As you see, I don't have many slides to illustrate these words. Photos exist in annual reports as marked, but making them into slides would take some time and money.

Perhaps I should integrate this material with what we already have. This version omits discussion of textbooks, first noise ordinances and hearing standards for workers. *OK.*

Is this "spicier" than the last version of the history? Hope so!

*Debbie*

*of comst.*

## 1940s

✓ 1948:

- Bolt and Beranek form partnership
- First project: U.N. General Assembly acoustics  
(slide available from U.N.? Photo exists in 1958 report) ~~(Slide exists, black + white)~~

## 1950s

✓ 1950:

- Bob Newman becomes a partner

✓ 1953:

- Firm becomes incorporated, 39 employees, 26 full time

10  
ELIOT

✓  
HARRIS  
SLIDE

Early '50s:

- ~~our headquarters in those early days~~ ~~in the Six apartment~~  
~~of this time in Harvard Square at 16 Eliot St.~~
- Advent of jet aircraft engine opens new area of consulting and research: quieting of jet testing facilities ~~(photo p. 3, 3 Decades)~~ or use existing slide

✓  
50 MOULTON  
ST

1957:

- BBN moves from Harvard Square to 50 Moulton Street - nearly 100 employees - passes \$1 million in sales  
~~(slide of 50 Moulton St.)~~

✓  
AULA  
MAGNA

1958:

- ~~(Possible)~~ Concert Hall in Caracas, the Aula Magna, first uses "flying clouds" designed with Alexander Calder ~~(photo, p. 8, 1958 report)~~  
~~(Slide exists)~~

## 1960s

✓ 1960:

- \$2 million in sales

✓ 1961:

- First public sale of BBN common stock. ~~Proceeds used to repay bank loans and launch Prototech, our first research subsidiary~~ - ~~(photo of front page of stock prospectus?)~~

1960s (cont.)

5 MEMBERS

TIME ✓  
HARRIS 1962:

- 5 founding members sit for portrait (~~slide exists~~)
- First public demonstration of time-shared computer system. Three people simultaneously using a DEC PDP-1, the first computer DEC ever sold (slide exists)
- ~~Honor~~ Products Company, BBN's first manufacturing subsidiary. Manufactured pushbutton teaching machine (photo of child using machine, 1962 annual report)
- ~~German~~ affiliate formed, Mueller BBN GmbH, in Munich, West Germany

✓ 1964:

- First public demonstration of the Hospital Communications system for Mass. General Hospital. Contract began in 1962 for NIH. (Use diagram of MGH computerized information system that appeared in Business Week, May 1965?)

1965:

- ~~PAS~~ (Program for Advanced Study) begun. Provides continuing education at graduate level in applied science and engineering. Courses taught in major cities across country.
- ~~Telcomp~~ time-shared computer service introduced. Based on BBN's proprietary TELCOMP computer language, this system aided scientists and engineers (photo in 1968 report).

✓ 1966:

- \$5 million in sales
- ~~Medinet~~, formed jointly with G.E., <sup>becomes</sup> a department of G.E. Jordan Baruch, a member of BBN's board, is General Manager. Provides information services for hospitals, medical labs, etc. (Photo in 1967 annual report)

## 1960s (cont.)

SHIP/

1967:

- BBN's Oceanology Department begun *(photo of a ship?)*
- More than 500 employees, Washington, DC and San Francisco offices opened.

1968:

- Sales exceed \$10 million. Delos Computer Leasing Corp. formed within General Discount Corporation. Tailored leasing arrangements on computers and peripheral equipment.

✓ 1969:

- Sales exceed \$15 million, over 800 employees
- Won ARPA network contract for national research computer network
- Sam Labate becomes president of BBN, profile of BBN is lead article of Building Construction Magazine (slide of cover photo?).

## 1970s

✓ 1970:

- BBN stock is registered on American Stock Exchange
- Oceanology Laboratory built at Cambridge facility (slide of water tank)
- *Draw up first comprehensive noise ordinance for Chicago - it became the basis for noise standards for every major city*
- Developed TENEX, proprietary timesharing software for BBN modifications to a DEC PDP-10 computer operating as a research facility in Cambridge (photo, BLUEBOOK, p. 23 - PDP-10's used with TENEX).
- IMP (Interface Message Processor) designed and built for ARPA. Computers of different types can be connected (through it) into networks permitting use of data and programs stored in geographically separated computers (photo of IMP, p. 12, 1972 report).

- *Some major projects in architectural acoustics were the Louisiana Superdome and Singapore Stadium and projects in early '70s. (Slides exist)*

HEARING

BOOKS

- Developed many of the nationally accepted standards for protecting workers in American industry
- Leo Beranek's classic text on noise control appeared

1970s (cont.)

- 1972:
- PROPHET - Interactive time-shared system (begun in 1969) to handle chemical and biological information. ~~Developed graphics capability for studying molecular models of drug compounds (photo p. 29, BBN BLUE BOOK).~~

BBN  
NEW  
1973:

- Dr. Bolt chaired committee of consultants engaged by Judge Sirica to study the White House Watergate tapes (newspapers slide)
- Telenet Communications Corp. formed to provide packet-switching technology to commercial markets (photo of Telenet equipment being tested, p. 9, 1974 report?).

1974:

- Set → {
- Exceeded \$20 million in sales; ~~(themes of year were environment, information, and energy)~~
  - Cash dividend declared on common stock of BBN (10¢ a share).
  - FCC approved Telenet's application to establish and operate a nationwide computer network as a common carrier, offering computer-to-computer and terminal-to-computer services.
  - Geomarine Services started to respond to energy markets - offshore oil exploration and environmental impact data acquisition (cover photo, oil rig, 1974 report?).

WIND  
TUNNEL

- BBN's large wind tunnel in Cambridge built. ~~(slide exists)~~
- Freightliner "Quiet Truck" noise control design resulted in noise reduction and lower fuel consumption (photo of truck, p. 9, 1974 report)

1975:

- BBN involved in hearings to resolve questions about new OSHA noise standards.

### 1970s (cont.)

- New England Manufacturers Exchange (NEMEX) formed. Computer-based matching service for buyers of industrial products.
- PLURIBUS, very reliable high-speed multiprocessor recently completed. (Photo, p. 8, 1975 report - all have slides.)

1976:

- Dr. Bolt retires as BBN Chairman of Board, Sam Labate succeeds him, Steve Levy becomes President.
- 10 Moulton St. building completed (~~slide of 10~~ Moulton St.)
- BBN disposes of interest in Delos, which offsets Telenet start-up costs.
- ARPAnet comes under sponsorship of Defense Communications Agency (DCA); becomes an operational facility, no longer an experimental network.
- \$1.2 million contract awarded to BBN by Dept. of Labor to provide free on-site consultation to foundry owners as part of an OSHA voluntary compliance program. Over 250 foundries were visited in 19 states.
- BBN Instruments Company formed - manufactured scientific instruments and transducers, portable noise monitors.

1977:

- Jordan Baruch, one of BBN's founders, appointed Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology. Resigns from BBN board.
- SpaceGraph true 3D graphics display developed.
- ~~Yale University Center for American Arts, or Vancouver Symphony? (Check for slides.)~~
- Citibank Network (CITINET) developed by BBN using ARPAnet concept.

1970s (cont.)

1978:

- Over \$30 million in sales, ~~816 employees~~.
- ~~Project~~ field offices in Baltimore and New London opened (regional offices closed in Chicago, Houston, and San Francisco).
- NEIL BARGER ✓ • Jim Barger analyzed recording of the shooting at Kent State and headed the team of BBN specialists who analyzed tape recording of Kennedy assassination. (No photo - use newspapers slide - grainy photo of mikes at site, p. 19, July 79 News About BBN.)
- ~~For~~ Social Security Administration, BBN established facility for evaluating computer system for client interviews and administrative duties.

1979: (beginning of product thrust - plans to expand product activities)

- ~~Merge~~ between Telenet and General Telephone and Electronics Corp. (GTE); BBN's gain was \$10 million.

POPE'S  
SOUND  
SYSTEM

- ✓ • Pope's sound system on Boston Common (use existing slide)
- / • BBNCC founded; manufacture~~s~~ and markets computer-related technology. PLURIBUS multiprocessor is first product.

RS/1

- / • RS/1, The Research System, developed - a commercial software product designed to help research scientists store, analyze, and understand data better. Makes charts, graphs, and tables. (~~Slide exists~~)



1980s

1980:

- ~~BBN~~ Information Management Corp. founded, markets InfoMail.
- Acquisition of ~~Lockheed's SUE and SUPERSUE~~ minicomputer manufacturing facilities in Hong Kong. Minicomputers used in Pluribus multiprocessors.

1981:

- ✓ • Over \$50 million in sales, 1295 employees
- ~~BBN~~NCC introduced C/70 timesharing computer (photo?)
- Dr. ~~Bolt~~ retired from Board of Directors at age 70. Had served since 1953 except for 1961-63 NSF tenure. (Photo of Dr. Bolt?)
- ✓ • Begin renovations at 70 Fawcett St. (slide of Tip O'Neill at ceremonies renovation)

O'NEILL

1982:

- \$69 million in sales.
- ~~Communications~~ Systems Division formed (Div. 5).
- ✓ • DoD Defense Communications Agency is proceeding with the Defense Data Network, a worldwide data communications network developed by BBN.
- C/~~60~~ minicomputer added to our C Family of computers.
- BitGraph text and graphics terminal introduced.
- ~~BBN~~NCC and BBNIMC combined.
- ✓ • Agreement between BBN and Schlumberger Ltd., the large international corporation based in Switzerland, providing a framework for BBN technical corporation and consulting to Schlumberger in oil field services and computer-aided design and manufacturing. Schlumberger purchased 300,000 shares of BBN stock - a 14.5% holding in BBN.

JOSEPH MEYERHOFF  
HALL

• Three major new concert halls opened in 1982, all to grand openings. They are the Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto, the Melbourne Concert Hall in Australia, and the Joseph Meyerhoff Hall in Baltimore, MD - shown here

1980s (cont.)

~~1982:~~

- Bob Newman retired from BBN at 65, will still serve on Board of Directors. (~~the~~ photo of Newman?)
- Product sales increased 64% over last year; products segment crossed over into the black in 4th quarter of fiscal 1982, because of BBNCC.

PREVIOUS SUBS  
AND VENTURES

Building BBN to where it is today has been a bootstrapping operation. For instance, we've been involved in all the subsidiaries, affiliates, or joint ventures shown in this slide. (Dave - ad lib here about Wood Flong)

Starting without much capital but with good ideas, we have consistently developed companies, sold them, and reinvested in new enterprises.